

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11 January 2010 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in telephone interviews with Paul T. Sewell (Reg. No. 61,784) on 2 February 2010 and 16 February 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A digital camera comprising:
display means for displaying digital image data of a photographed image, the digital image data having been acquired by photographing and stored as fixed image data in a storage medium;

printing-specifying information setting means for setting printing-specifying information for said digital image data, the printing-specifying information being used during printing; and

control means for

displaying said digital image data for which said printing-specifying information was set onto said displaying means so that said printing-specifying information corresponds to said digital image data and for

displaying digital image data with no printing-specifying information onto said displaying means,

such that said digital image data for which said printing-specifying information was set and said digital image data with no printing-specifying information are discriminated from each other when they are displayed at the same time on said displaying means and if said printing-specifying information includes a number of print sheets, not only said set of printing- specifying information corresponding to each image data but also a set total number of print sheets to be printed is displayed at the same time on said display means prior to the digital image data being read out of the storage medium for printing.

Claim 6 (canceled).

9. (Currently amended) A method to operate a digital camera, comprising the steps of:

setting printing-specifying information, to be used during printing, for a digital image;

displaying said digital image for which said printing-specifying information was set so that said printing-specifying information corresponds to said digital image on a display of said digital camera and

further displaying a digital image acquired by photographing and stored as a fixed image without printing-specifying information, on a display of said digital camera, such that ~~said~~ digital image data for which said printing-specifying information was set and ~~said~~ digital image data without printing-specifying information are discriminated from each other when they are displayed at the same time on said display and if said printing-specifying information includes a number of print sheets, not only said set of printing-specifying information corresponding to each image data but also a set total number of print sheets to be printed is displayed at the same time on said display means prior to the digital image being read out of the digital camera for printing.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-11 (renumbered 1-8) are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner could not find prior art disclosing a digital camera and a method of operating a digital camera wherein plural images are displayed on a display along with a number of print sheets and a set total number of print sheets to be printed as required by the independent claims (see Applicant's Figures 3 & 4). More specifically, the examiner

could not find prior art disclosing a display that (1) discriminates between images with printing-specifying information and images without printing-specifying information when they are displayed at the same time on the display and (2) additionally displays a number of print sheets (for images with printing-specifying information) and a set total number of print sheets to be printed (see Applicant's Figures 3 & 4). Thus, the instant application is in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RICHARD M. BEMBEN whose telephone number is (571)272-7634. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ometz David can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David L. Ometz/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2622

RMB
16 February 2010